

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 OMB-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAM-01

/059 W

----- 131054

R 251646Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3093

INFO USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

USCINCEUR

USCINCNAVEUR

USCINCUSAFE

16TH AF, TORREJON/CO SPAIN

JUSMG/MAAG, SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, SP, US

SUBJ: SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS - FURTHER PRESS REACTION
TO DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS

REF: MADRID 6637

SUMMARY: SPANISH PRESS ON THE DAY PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF
THE 1970 AGREEMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION, CONTINUES
TO PERDICT EARLY AGREEMENT, WHILE CAUTIONING THAT CORTINA WILL
NOT COMMIT HIMSELF BEFORE HIS RETURN TO MADRID. PERHAPS
INEVITABLY, ACCOMPANYING PREDICTIONS OF AN IMPENDING AGREEMENT
ARE SEVERAL SOUR NOTES. END SUMMARY.

1. MADRID PRESS OF SEPT 25 CARRIES OFFICIAL SPANISH NEWS
SERVICE (EFE) REPORT THAT US AND SPAIN ARE VERY CLOSE TO AGREEMENT
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ON THE MAIN POINTS, ATTRIBUTING THIS INFORMATION TO THE US

PRESS, PARTICULARLY THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON STAR. EVENING DAILY "INFORMACIONES" OF SEPT 24 HAS SECRETARY KISSINGER WANTING AGREEMENT TO AVOID MOVING US-EUROPEAN DEFENSE LINES FURTHER WEST, AND ATTRIBUTES TO US SOURCES BELIEF THAT A SOLUTION MAY BE READY FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING SEPT 26. (THIS OPTIMISM MIRRORS THAT IN A SPANISH NEWS SERVICE REPORT OF THE VIEWS OF DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS IN MADRID THE DAY BEFORE -- REFTEL).

2. AT SAME TIME THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT'S PRESS SERVICE (PYRESA) ATTRIBUTES TO ABSOLUTELY RELIABLE SOURCES A REPORT THAT CORTINA WILL BRING THE US PROPOSALS HOME ON SEPT 30 FOR GOS CONSIDERATION, AND THAT THUS THERE WILL BE NEITHER AN AGREEMENT NOR AN EXTENSION OF THE 1970 AGREEMENT ON SEPT 26. THE SAME SOURCES REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT THE EXPIRATION OF THE CURRENT AGREEMENT IN NO WAY IMPLIES A RUPTURE IN CLOSE US-SPANISH RELATIONS.

3. GUSTAVO VALVERDE ("YA") REPORTS FROM NEW YORK THAT THE NEW YORK TIMES' ACCOUNT (PRESUMABLY THAT OF 24 SEPT) WAS "WELL RECEIVED" BY SPANISH DIPLOMATS. HE CLAIMS A SOFTENING OF POSITIONS ON BOTH SIDES, NOTES THERE HAS BEEN NO RECENT MENTION OF DISMANTLING OF US FACILITIES, PREDICTS AGREEMENT ON A MILITARY ASSISTANCE FIGURE OF APPROXIMATELY \$750 MILLION, AND REPORTS THAT THE NEW YORK TIMES HAS IMPLIED THAT SEMANTICAS WILL BE USED TO GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF SOME CONCESSION TO THE SPANISH DESIRE FOR A SECURITY GUARANTEE.

4. AMONG THE VARIOUS REPORTS AND COMMENTARIES ARE PREDICTABLY A FEW SOUR NOTES. UNDER THE TITLE "THE SAME OLD SONG," "ABC" PEDRO CRESPO CLAIMS THAT CORTINA HAS APPARENTLY GIVEN GROUND, IN THE SAME MANNER AS HIS PREDECESSORS IN EARLIER

BASE NEGOTIATIONS, BECAUSE THERE ARE TOO MANY ISSUES ON THE SPANISH PLATE AT THIS TIME. THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT'S DAILY "ARRIBA" HEADLINES UNDER THE TITLE "US NOT PLAYING CLEANLY" A STORY BY ITS NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT FELIX ORTEGA COMPLAINING THAT THE US HAS USED PRESSURE TACTICS AND THAT A \$500 MILLION MILITARY AID PACKAGE WOULD BE A "SWINDLE." ORTEGA'S CLAIM OF PRESSURE TACTICS CENTERS AROUND REMARKABLY LABRYNTHINE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANALYSIS OF THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN'S SEPT 17 STORY ON THE FOUR-POWER FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING OF SEPT 5 (LONDON 14319). HE CHARGES THE GUARDIAN'S ACCOUNT WAS LEAKED INTENTIONALLY TO "SCARE" SPAIN. THE GAME, IN HIS VIEW, ALSO INVOLVES KEEPING SPAIN OUT OF NATO SO THAT ROTA (SEEN TOGETHER WITH HOLY LOCH AND GUAM AS THE KEY TO THE WESTERN STRATEGIC POSTURE) CAN SERVE IN A LIMITED WAR AS A SAFE HAVEN FOR RELOADING NATO'S GUNS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID06677
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750333-1171
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750918/aaaaapnf.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 6637
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS - FURTHER PRESS REACTION TO DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS
TAGS: MARR, SP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006